



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MS IZZY JONES

TEL: 020 7267 9346

FAX: 020 7284 1274

info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

23rd April 2021

Dear families,

WESPA working weekend at The Mill

For some William Ellis students and their families, this term started early! On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th The Mill hosted their Spring Working Weekend, when WESPA volunteers and friends of The Mill were digging, raking, cleaning, painting and building in the Surrey sunshine! Alice and Sam, our wardens at The Mill, said this:

We took a bit of time yesterday to gather our thoughts and energy after such a fabulous weekend. Thanks so much to everyone who came down to The Mill at the weekend and gave their time and energy to get all of the work that was accomplished on Saturday and Sunday. Sam and I are in awe of what has been achieved and cannot thank you enough. Do have a look at [our photos from the weekend](#). The before and after shots are quite remarkable, and you can also see the renovations we have been doing while things have been quieter than normal. We hope you all have managed to rest a little after such a busy weekend and we will of course keep you updated on the progress that we will continue to make in each area you were working on.

In terms of dates for the next Working Weekends in 2021, below are the provisional dates:

- 4, 5, 6th June 2021 (Summer Working Weekend)
- 8, 9, 10th October 2021 (Autumn Working Weekend)

The Mill is a fabulous resource to support our school Outdoor Education curriculum and camp programme, which could not run as normal last year. With the relaxation in restrictions since March we are now able to make some plans for the summer and autumn terms for Key Stage 3 and the Duke of Edinburgh programme to restart – watch this space soon for more details!

Assessments for Years 11 and 13, and some Year 12 students

As you know, students who would have sat exams this year are completing in-school assessments during this half term. These are mainly in class, with Year 13 also having a short exam window 17th – 19th May. Students and their families have been given a timetable of when Year 11 assessments will take place, and 6th form students have been told individually by their teachers. A guide to assessments for students and families from the Joint Council for Qualifications can be found [here](#). It is critical that all students attend every assessment and all the preparation lessons leading up to them between now and the end of term so that they make the most of the time they have available.

The key dates for students are as follows:

- 28th May: final date for students to complete all work to be considered for teacher assessment
- 7th – 17th June: period of teacher checking and moderation, during which students may be called upon to come into school if there is any work missing
- 28th June: LaSWAP 6th form taster day (to be finally confirmed)
- 10th August: A Level and GCE results day
- 12th August: GCSE results day
- 12th August: LaSWAP admissions interviews

Admissions and Summer School

We are pleased to report that we have been able to offer 130 places to current Year 6 students who will be joining us in September, and currently have a long waiting list for places. Year 6 students and their families will be joining us for transition interviews on 5th and 8th May and should have already received the times of their interviews by email – anyone who has not should contact the school by email. As happens every year, we will be running a fun-packed summer school 23rd – 27th August so that students feel established and at home when they join us on 1st September. We are working in the coming weeks with our Year 8-10 students to build a new team of students to visit primary schools to support successful transition work.

Mobile phone use outside school

Some of the questions raised by parents who I spoke to during the March WESPA event were about mobile phone use and technology. We have just finished collecting substantial feedback from groups of students and staff about their views on mobile phone and technology use in school and will be writing to families about this again before half term. However, it has also been brought to our attention, unfortunately, that William Ellis students have been using their phones irresponsibly outside school. Specifically, this has involved filming others without permission and sharing these films and other images on social media. Please work with us to remind young people that it is not acceptable, in or outside school, to film other people without their consent and that doing so, or sharing such images and videos, may lead to investigation by the police and potentially compromises the safety of others. If you have particular concerns about a student's use of technology or the internet, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

Water bottles

As we come into warmer weather it is important that students keep well hydrated by drinking water. Students must bring their own water bottle to school which they can refill from the special refill taps. The traditional water fountains remain turned off as part of our Covid risk assessment.

Yours faithfully



Izzy Jones
Headteacher